

**MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes, House Chair  
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen W. Morgan  
Rep. Laura Black  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Wayne A. Harper  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold  
Rep. Curtis Oda  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Rep. Kraig Powell  
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. Carl Wimmer

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. He recognized and thanked Rep. Holdaway for his participation on the Committee. Rep. Holdaway will be resigning from the Utah State Legislature in November.

**MOTION:** Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Bramble, Rep. Harper, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

**2. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) Amendments"**

Chair Stephenson noted that at the September meeting, the Committee received presentations on a pilot assessment program that includes online adaptive testing, online writing assessments, and college readiness assessments in certain grades. The pilot assessment program is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2010.

Sen. Stephenson asked Ms. Steffen to review the 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) Amendments."

Ms. Steffen gave an overview of the bill and explained that the bill modifies U-PASS by allowing the use of online computer adaptive tests, extending a pilot assessment system, and eliminating norm-referenced tests in grades 3, 5, and 8.

Dr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ms. Debra Roberts, Chair, State Board of Education, and Ms. Dixie Allen, Vice Chair, State Board of Education, responded to committee members' questions about U-PASS and the changes made in the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Dayton moved to approve 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Harper and Rep. Wimmer absent for the vote.

### **3. Consider Proposed Legislation, "School District Division Amendment"**

Rep. Black reviewed 2010 General Session draft legislation, "School District Division Amendment," that was distributed in the committee mailing packet. She noted that the bill modifies procedures for establishing a new school district following voter approval of the proposal.

Ms. Stallings explained technical changes made in the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Watkins moved to approve 2010 General Session draft legislation "School District Division Amendment," as a committee bill. The motion passed with Sen. Hillyard voting in opposition. Rep. Wimmer was absent for the vote.

### **4. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Amendments to Education Financing"**

Rep. Newbold distributed and reviewed 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Amendments to Education Financing." She explained the bill consolidates certain tax levies that school districts are authorized to impose and freezes the basic tax levy. She stated that the bill will result in a more equalized tax effort, because there will be more reliance on the basic tax levy, which is a uniform tax levy administered statewide, and less reliance on discretionary tax levies imposed by school districts.

Staff distributed the following informational handouts on the issue:

- 1) "2008 School District Actual Property Tax Levy Rates;"
- 2) "List of Consolidated Levies;"
- 3) "Minimum School Program: Basic Levy;" and
- 4) "Public Education: Estimated Property Tax Revenue Generated Per WPU & Per Enrolled Student."

Ms. Kathie Johnson, South Jordan City Council, asked the Committee to consider equalization on a statewide level.

Dr. Ray Timothy, Superintendent, Park City School District, expressed that a local community should be allowed to impose taxes beyond the minimum school program. He noted that the school districts within Summit County already contribute enough money to the basic school program to fund 18 of the school districts in the state.

Chair Stephenson said that in the November meeting, the Committee will receive data showing the effect of the proposed legislation, "Amendments to Education Financing," on school districts throughout the state.

## **5. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Modifications to Higher Education Scholarships"**

Sen. John L. Valentine and Rep. Hughes distributed and reviewed 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Modifications to Higher Education Scholarships." Sen. Valentine noted that the bill makes adjustments to the New Century Scholarship and the Regents' Scholarship as follows:

- 1) moves the date that students have to complete requirements for the New Century Scholarship from September 1 to the student's high school class graduation date;
- 2) allows the scholarships to be used only at institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education;
- 3) requires a scholarship recipient to enroll at a higher education institution in the fall semester immediately following high school graduation, or receive an approved leave of absence from the Board of Regents;
- 4) gives the Board of Regents specific authority to set application deadlines;
- 5) provides that a student may not receive both a New Century and Regents' Scholarship; and
- 6) for the New Century Scholarship, eliminates the option to complete a specialized math and science curriculum as one of the available tracks that qualifies a student for the scholarship.

Sen. Valentine and Rep. Hughes explained that most of these changes will be phased in over a period of one or two years so that scholarship requirements and amounts do not change significantly for students who are near high school completion.

Mr. David Buhler, Associate Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), responded to committee members' questions and expressed support for the bill.

## **6. Annual Reports**

- A. Regents' Scholarship Program
- B. Career and Technical Education
- C. Extended-Day Kindergarten
- D. High-ability Student Initiative Program

Chair Stephenson referred the committee members to the annual reports that were distributed in the mailing packet and at the meeting. He noted if a committee member has a question regarding a report, the committee member should contact staff, and the report can be discussed at the November meeting.

## **7. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Holdaway moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Harper, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Wimmer absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.